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INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMANITIES

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2000

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Seminars

Department of Humanities

THE COMPILATION OF THE BASIC MATERIALS OF THE SĀMAVEDA
 (coordinated by M. FUJII, April 1999–March 2001)

The aim of this project is to compile and edit the basic texts of the Sāmaveda on the basis of all the written materials including manuscripts and printed editions. The unpublished Jaiminiya texts are our main target, but the textual traditions of the other schools are also within the scope of our study. As the first fruit of the comprehensive research project on the Sāmaveda, we are making a general index of the whole Sāmaveda.

ASPECTS OF THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF ANCIENT INDIA: TEXT-TRANSMISSION AND MANUSCRIPTS OF VEDIC LITERATURE

(coordinated by Y. IKARI, April 1999–March 2001)

This study intends to prepare a summary of the prerequisite knowledge for establishing critical texts of Sanskrit, especially those of Vedic literature transmitted in South India.

In dealing with the Vedic Sanskrit texts transmitted in multilingual countries such as in South Asia, we have to take into account the problems of possible textual transformation through ages of transmission, and owing to various reasons. Before establishing a critical text, we have to consider various factors which may have caused textual variations: on the one hand, there is the time-factor (i.e. historical change in the language system of Sanskrit) and, on the other, the space-factor (i.e. the influence of local languages, both phonetic and orthographic, which are used in the area where the text has been received and transmitted).

Through recent fieldwork in South India, we have collected many rare and important old manuscripts of Vedic literature written in the scripts of South Indian languages, especially those in old Malayalam script. Through the joint efforts of experienced Vedic researchers, we try to summarize the basic characteristic features manifested in these manuscripts and to contribute to the further investigation on this unexplored area of study of Vedic text-transmission.

SETTLEMENT, MIGRATION AND COMMUNICATION IN COMPARATIVE HISTORY

(coordinated by K. MAEKAWA, April 1998–March 2001)

In pre- and proto-industrial societies in which systems of communication were poorly developed, human attitudes toward the outer world could change drastically when they had the opportunity of travelling. They could also be greatly influenced by reading books about travel or by talking with others who had once lived in the outer world.

This is a comparative study of how ideas of the outer world gradually changed in the traditional societies of Europe, the Islamic world and East Asia. Changes which occurred both in the East and West in the late middle and early modern ages are the main topics of our research, for example, the gradual development of systems of transportation and communication, increasing chances to make pilgrimages and sightseeing journeys, and the growing demand for books about journeys, missions or expeditions.

JAPANESE COLONIAL POLICY TOWARD KOREA AND TAIWAN

(coordinated by N. MIZUNO, April 1998–March 2002)

Korea and Taiwan were the principal colonies of the pre-war Japanese Empire. The project's aim is to examine Japanese colonial rule in Korea and Taiwan, mainly by comparing its policies toward Korea and toward Taiwan, but also by analyzing the process and mechanism of policy-making. It is also intended to investigate the relationship between colonial policies and Japanese domestic politics.

A STUDY OF PORNOGRAPHY

(coordinated by Y. OURA, April 1999–March 2002)

Based on analyses of erotic representations using different media such as literary texts, paintings, photographs, films, videos, etc., we will examine the nature of the eros represented therein and the very possibility of its representation, as well as several themes common to them: subject, society, ethnicity, nation, gender, religion, ethics, etc. With reference to the “invention of pornography” in modern Europe, and also considering the erotic representations and cultures in modern and contemporary Japan, along with some cases in China and the United States, we wish to open a horizon for a new theory in this field.

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DARWINIAN EFFECTS

(coordinated by T. SAKAGAMI, April 1999–March 2002)

Since the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, “evolutionism” has produced great effects on various fields, and has given rise to a paradigm shift in modern sciences. The spread of evolutionistic terms, such as “struggle for existence” and “survival of the fittest”, seems to be clear evidence of “Darwinian Effects”, but an evolutionistic way of thinking has also implicitly tremendous impact on sciences and societies in the 20th century. This study attempts to investigate how “evolutionism” has been understood, accepted or criticized in various societies and disciplines, in order to shed some light on characteristics and problems of modern societies and sciences.

STUDY OF INFORMATION IN THE PERIOD OF THE MEIJI REVOLUTION

(coordinated by S. SASAKI, April 1996–March 2001)

The Meiji Revolution was a period of social change in the information-oriented nineteenth century. Both the authorities and the people had to cope with various information from inside and outside the country. This study aims to investigate how they collected, published and used such information.

TRANSDISCIPLINARY STUDIES OF FETISHES AND FETISHISM

(coordinated by M. TANAKA, April 2000–March 2003)

This three-year-long project aims to reconsider socio-historical contexts in which the concept of fetish/fetishism emerged and has developed in the West and beyond. Fetishes were “discovered” in West Africa by Portuguese traders. Fetishism was coined by a French scholar, de Bross in 17th century, and later, in 19th century, led to a heated debate over the origin of religion. It was also used by Marx to characterize the nature of commodities and by Freud for a type of sexual orientalism. Fetish/Fetishism is a key concept to understand not only the history of Western social thoughts, but Western views of human-object relationship.

REEXAMINATION OF THEORY AND CRITICISM IN THE 20TH CENTURY (coordinated by N. Ueno, April 1999–March 2002)

In the first half of the 20th century, the “crisis” of modern human sciences began to surface, and then the problem of how to overcome it became the main subject in various fields: some disciplines were reconstructed from a new perspective; others, such as anthropology and psychoanalysis, were newly formed. And these earthshaking changes of paradigms in modern human sciences must have been, more or less, correlative with the “crisis” of modern society itself. This study attempts to give an analysis of philosophical, scientific and artistic discourse during this period in Europe, America and Japan, in order to shed light on its complex connections with social and political conditions.

A STUDY OF AVANT-GARDE ART (coordinated by H. USAMI, April 1997–March 2001)

The Avant-Garde movement in art at the beginning of the 20th century gave rise to a radical change of art, as well as in the theory of representation. We intend to re-examine this movement in its entirety. Interaction between different genres such as literature, fine arts, theater, and cinema, together with parallel developments in science and technology, changes in the political and social infrastructure, and also the ideological context of the movement—these factors will be taken into account. But further, we wish to stress the importance of a comparative point of view which will allow us to embrace various aspects of this artistic experience, extending beyond Western Europe to Japan, China, Russia, the United-States, etc. The period covered will be from the early 20th century to the 1930s.

A STUDY OF “EMPIRE” (coordinated by Y. YAMAMOTO, April 1998–March 2001)

With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the identities of nations tended to be strengthened, and new perceptions of nations or states are sought by scholars. Some try to reconsider the modern “nation-state” model based on self-determination of peoples. The alternative to the nation-state, an ideal of “empire”, attracts much attention from various scholars and has become a new agenda for academic research.

The aim of this seminar is to reveal the logic and historical patterns of empires from global and comparative perspectives. The Marxist interpretations of economic imperialism will be reconsidered from the point of view of new developments in historiography of empires.

DIMENSIONS OF CULTURAL INTERACTION AND ITS INITIATORS

(coordinated by S. YAMAMURO, April 2000–March 2003)

This study group is pursuing the new research field of cultural interaction. To this end, researchers from a wide variety of disciplines delineate the process by which cultures are shaped and transformed through the interaction of people, information, and materials, while at the same time undertaking a critical reexamination of established disciplines and their theoretical frameworks.

Furthermore, the group also aims to analyze the historical roles which various research institutions have played as initiators of cultural interaction in Japan, and as a case study it focuses in particular on the East Asian Institute.

LANGUAGE AND STABLE SOCIETY

(coordinated by T. YOKOYAMA, April 1999–March 2002)

When human societies stabilise, language seems to undergo significant change. This seminar involves discussions across the humanities, animal sciences, and ecology to clarify modes of relationship between language and stable societies.

The discussions take as their source documents selected from pre-modern Asian and European religions, the performing arts, literature, and sciences.

The participants in this seminar share the idea that the quality of language is a crucial element essential to any stable society for the maintainance of its vitality. The problem of today is that the seeds for global social stability have been proliferating in the form of new taboos produced by high science and technology, but at the same time the over-specialisation of human activities seems to lead to a gradual decline of the power of language, changing any new trend of stability into that of stagnancy.

Department of Oriental Studies

STUDIES ON *GUIZHEN ZONGYI* 歸真總義

(coordinated by M. HAMADA, April 2000–March 2003)

From the end of Ming period there appeared many Islamic literatures written in Chinese. It has been pointed out that influence of Sufism had significantly permeated among them. *Guizhen zongyi* is one of the earliest works of this category. Zhang Zhong 張中, a Chinese Muslim, had recorded and published the lecture of an unidentified Indian Sufi. Scrutinizing this important literature will help us to elucidate how Chinese Muslim intellectuals of the 17th century tried to understand Islam and Sufism in the religious and cultural tradition of China. It will also be a clue to further investigation of the feature of Islam in China or a localization problem of Islamic religion.

CHINESE COMMUNISM AND JAPAN: THOUGHT, MOVEMENT, WAR

(coordinated by N. HAZAMA, April 1997–March 2001)

A result of the history of modern China was the birth of the contemporary Chinese state, the People's Republic of China (PRC). It is apparent that the PRC is the "Communist" state governed by the Chinese Communist Party. To trace the above-mentioned process, needless to say, we must consider the world-wide Communist movement that appeared as a historical phenomenon peculiar to the twentieth century. But we have to investigate especially its close relations with Japan (and Korea) in East Asia. This study is intended to focus on Chinese Communism and Japan from three perspectives: thought, movement and war.

SOCIAL ORDER IN EARLY MODERN CHINA

(coordinated by S. IWAI, April 2000–March 2003)

The fields of order formation in pre-modern China are recognized at several levels. One can refer to the family or the lineage as the most basic layer, and to the world system of the Middle Kingdom as the highest. This research project focuses on the political and cultural orders within the prefecture level and tries to elucidate the dynamic process of their formation through reciprocal actions between local authorities and people.

THE SOCIETY AND CULTURE OF THE YUAN DYNASTY

(coordinated by B. KIN, April 2000–March 2003)

This will be an investigation of the nature of society and culture in the age when Mongolians ruled the whole of China. For this purpose, we will study two important books of those days, one is SHILINGUANGJI 事林廣記 which is a sort of an encyclopedia for daily life, and another is YUANKANZAJUSANSHIZHONG 元刊雜劇三十種, thirty playbooks of ZAJU 雜劇 drama.

THE FORMATION OF CHINESE CIVILIZATION

(coordinated by I. KOMINAMI, April 2000–March 2005)

Many important relics have been unearthed recently in China. These materials give us a lot of new knowledge about many aspects of Chinese culture. But when we attempt to rewrite the history of Chinese culture, we are confronted with the difficulty of mediating between text and unearthed materials. This research team examines Wang Guowei's way of investigating ancient Chinese culture, and tries to create a new method for research in cultural history by combining text and unearthed materials.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA AS REFLECTED IN THE CHINESE BIOGRAPHIES OF BUDDHIST MONK-TRANSLATORS

(coordinated by S. KUWAYAMA, April 1996–March 2002)

The project aims to deepen our understanding of Buddhist culture and society in Central Asia and the northwestern Subcontinent in the 4th-8th centuries. The interdisciplinary meeting held biweekly (on Mondays) focuses on a detailed reading of the biographies of monks who came to China to translate Buddhist scriptures. Such biographies, edited in the 5th and 8th centuries, are included in the Liang and Tang *Biographies of Eminent Monks*. The project ends in March 2002.

THE DYNAMIC STRUCTURE OF CHINESE MODERNIZATION

(coordinated by T. MORI, April 1998–March 2003)

The encounter with western civilization brought about a great change in China. But how? “Western impact on China” is a word often used to describe the cause of this change. This expression reveals the one-sidedness of the traditional view: the West forced China to change. The traditional social structure of China, however, must have played a fundamental role in accepting western civilization and modernizing China. Therefore, along with the western impact on China, the transformation and development of Chinese society should be considered. We intend to examine this problem from various points of view—politically, economically, and culturally.

A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CONFUCIANISM, BUDDHISM AND TAOISM

(coordinated by K. MUGITANI, April 2000–March 2005)

The relation between Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism is one of the most important subjects in the Chinese history of thought. Especially in the Tang dynasty, Confucians, Buddhists and Taoists had many heated controversies, and influenced each other in that process. This project aims to clarify the relationships between Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism in the Tang dynasty by analyzing some typical treatises on the defense of Buddhism.

ICONOLOGY OF CHINESE ART

(coordinated by H. SOFUKAWA, April 2000–March 2005)

All plastic representations have symbolical meanings in ancient and medieval arts. We cannot comprehend works of art without understanding what they represent. There are myths and early legends in the background of them. We will analyze Chinese ancient and medieval arts by the method of iconology. The main objects of our study will be archaeological materials which have been unearthed since the Communist Revolution, and Buddhist arts in China such as grotto temples in Dunhuang and Longmen, as well as those in India, Korea and Japan.

LANGUAGE CONTACT IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURY ASIA

(coordinated by T. TAKATA, April 1998–March 2002)

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Portuguese and the Spanish first came into contact with various exotic languages in Asia. This contact inevitably caused many lexical borrowings on both sides, that is to say, European and Asiatic. It also yielded contact languages such as pidgin and creoles. In this research seminar, we will investigate social and cultural aspects of the language contact of the period, mainly using materials left by the Portuguese and Spanish missionaries.

THE TRADITION OF TECHNOLOGY IN CHINA

(coordinated by T. TANAKA, April 1996–March 2002)

The aim of this biweekly seminar is to clarify the characteristics of several fields of traditional technology and science in China, in particular, fields related to everyday life and domestic sciences. Continuing on from the seminar held 1991–96, at the moment we are reading, translating, and annotating the most important text concerning agriculture, entitled *Neng Shu (Agricultural Treatise)*, by Wang Zhen (from 1313 to the Yuan dynasty). As well as philological works, we also invite members of different specialities to give lectures on various subjects connected with the history of technology and science in China.

WRITTEN MATERIALS IN THE THREE KINGDOMS PERIOD

(coordinated by I. TOMIYA and R. INAMI, April 2000–March 2005)

On the history of the Three Kingdoms period in China, two kinds of written materials have recently become accessible: one is the wooden documents from Changsha 長沙 newly excavated and partly published, and the other is the rubbings of inscriptions collected and digitalized in our Institute (<http://www.zinbun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~imgsrv/>).

In this seminar, we will analyze both of those written materials through the method of textual criticism so that we will obtain a new insight into the history from the Han 漢 to the Three Kingdoms 三国 period.